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Jane Henney, M.D.  
Commissioner of USFDA  
5600 Fishers Lane, room 1471  
Rockville, MD 20857

October 5, 1999

Dear Dr. Henney,

I have been reading and seeing information on genetically altered food, and would like to express my concern about this issue. I am only twenty-two years old, and have faced considerable health issues in the past year, the issues have as yet to be resolved, although I am doing better. I have also discussed the production of food last week with a good friend of my families who is involved in the fishing industry, as a result I learned of the horrible way that Salmon are being raised for food. Because food is essential for our healthy living, the altering of food is alarming and harmful.

My personal health issues got much worse with more and more antibiotics that were being prescribed. The combination of taking antibiotics and receiving antibiotics in my system through what I was eating was most likely too much for my body to take. By reading about genetically altered food, it is astonishing to discover that most things that enter my system are full of antibiotics and chemicals. I had to change my way of eating to ensure my health.

Financially, I am able to buy the foods that are organically grown, although most people are not able to afford the luxury of eating foods that will not harm them. I understand the arguments against organic foods not really being organic, although my health has returned to almost normal with the discontinuation of antibiotics, and the consuming of organic foods. I was even more alarmed to learn from a first hand account of how the food industry produces Salmon.

With the exception of Alaskan Salmon, fish are raised in tanks. Salmon are given antibiotics because of the proximity of which they are bred, and are given steroids to help them grow faster. I believed that Salmon was one of the healthiest things you could eat, I was wrong.

Food should not be harmful to those who consume it, or to the Earth that produces it. The altering of food will eventually alter the state of humans health, as in my case, and will change the functioning of the Earth. Genetically altered food is harmful and destructive, and the consequences will become apparent in the future. If the government will not change the way food is produced, then the consumers such as myself and others will opt for purchasing organic foods.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Kathryn Spielvogel*

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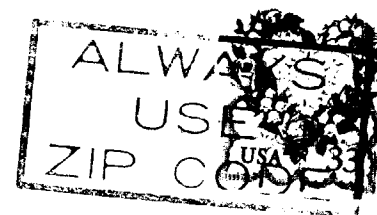
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